IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 26, 54, 63, 64, 69, and 73 as indicated below.

A listing of the status of all claims 1-73 in the present patent application is provided below.

1-25. (Cancelled)

26.   (Currently amended) A method for providing data, the method comprising the steps of:

storing, in an original data store, details associated with all write commands directed to a primary data store during a time interval so as to accumulate backup data, each write command being stored when directed to the primary data store, wherein the details associated with all write commands comprise an overwrite timestamp parameter, a primary data store location parameter, an original data store location parameter, and an overwritten data parameter;

receiving a request to create a virtual data store that reflects a state of the primary data store at a specified time, the specified time being any point in time during the time interval that occurs prior to the creation of a snapshot of the primary data store;

creating the virtual data store from data stored in the original data store;

receiving a storage protocol request for data at a specified address in the virtual data store; and

transmitting the requested data in response to the storage protocol request.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the original data store comprises another virtual data store.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the original data store comprises a current store and a time store.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the virtual data store comprises a logical unit.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 wherein both the request to create the virtual data store and the storage protocol request are received in a single protocol request packet.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 wherein the request to create the virtual data store is received in a

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different data packet than the storage protocol request.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the request to create the virtual data store is received via a user interface.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the request to create the virtual data store is received via the storage protocol request.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the storage protocol request comprises a standard read request.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the storage protocol request comprises a SCSI read request.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the storage protocol request comprises a Fibre Channel protocol request.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the storage protocol request is received over a Fibre Channel physical layer.

38. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 26 wherein the request to create the virtual data store is received from a host.

39. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 26 wherein the request to create the virtual data store is received from a network.

40. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 26 wherein the original data store comprises a current store and a time store.

41. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 26 wherein the virtual data store comprises a current store and a time store.

42. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 26 wherein the original data store comprises at least one terabyte of data.

43. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 42 wherein the original data store comprises multiple physical storage devices.

44. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 43 wherein the multiple physical storage devices comprise at least ten physical storage devices.

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45. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 44 wherein the multiple physical storage devices comprise at least 100 physical storage devices.

46. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 26 wherein the virtual   data   store   comprises   a   read   only   data   store.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 26 wherein the data is transmitted substantially instantaneously in response to the storage protocol request.

49. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 48 wherein the data is transmitted in less than 1 millisecond.

50. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of writing data to the virtual data store in response to a storage protocol write request.

51. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 50 wherein the storage   protocol   write   request   comprises   a   standard   write request.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the storage protocol write request comprises a SCSI write request.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the storage protocol write request comprises a Fibre Channel protocol request.

54. (Currently Amended) A method for providing data, the method comprising the steps of:

storing, in an original data store, details associated with all write commands directed to a primary data store during a time interval so as to accumulate backup data, each write command being stored when directed to the primary data store, wherein the details associated with all write commands comprise an overwrite timestamp parameter, a primary data store location parameter, an original data store location parameter, and an overwritten data parameter;

receiving a request to create a virtual data store;

generating, substantially instantaneously and from data stored in the original data store, the virtual data store that reflects the state of the primary data store at a specified time, the specified time being any point in time during the time interval that occurs prior to the creation of a snapshot of the

primary data store;

receiving a storage protocol request for data at a specified address in the virtual data store; and

transmitting the requested data in response to the storage protocol request.

55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, further comprising the step of copying the virtual data store to another data store.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56 wherein the other data store comprise a virtual data store.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the original data store comprise a virtual data store.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58 wherein the original data store is implemented as a current store and a time store.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the

virtual data store comprises a logical unit.

61. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 54, further comprising, before the generating step, the step of receiving a request to create the virtual data store.

62. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 61 wherein the virtual data store is generated within one second of the request to create the virtual data store.

63. (Currently Amended)   An article of manufacture having computer-readable program portions contained therein for providing data, the article comprising:

a computer-readable program portion for storing, in an original data store, details associated with all write commands directed to a primary data store during a time interval so as to accumulate backup data, each write command being stored when directed to the primary data store, wherein the details associated with all write commands comprise an overwrite timestamp parameter, a primary data store location parameter, an original data store location parameter, and an overwritten data parameter;

a computer-readable program portion for receiving a request

to create a virtual data store that reflects a state of the primary data store at a specified time, the specified time being any point in time during the time interval that occurs prior to the creation of a snapshot of the primary data store;

a computer-readable program portion for creating the virtual data store from data stored in the original data store;

a computer-readable program portion for receiving a storage protocol request for data at a specified address in the virtual data store; and

a computer-readable program portion for transmitting the requested data in response to the storage protocol request.

64. (Currently Amended) A system for providing data, comprising:

an original data store that stores details associated with all write commands directed to a primary data store during a time interval so as to accumulate backup data, each write command being stored when directed to the primary data store, wherein the details associated with all write commands comprise an overwrite timestamp parameter, a primary data store location parameter, an original data store location parameter, and an overwritten data parameter;

a virtual data store that reflects a state of the primary

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data store at a specified time, the specified time being any point in time during the time interval that occurs prior to the creation of a snapshot of the primary data store;

a virtual data store generator that generates the virtual data store from data stored in the original data store;

a receiver that receives a storage protocol request for data at a specified address in the virtual data store; and

a transmitter that transmits the requested data in response to the storage protocol request.

65. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 64, further comprising a storage protocol write request.

66. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 65 wherein a standard I/O command comprises at least one of the storage protocol request and the storage protocol write request.

67. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 66 wherein the standard I/O command comprises a SCSI command.

68. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 67 wherein the standard I/O command comprises a Fibre Channel protocol request.

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69. (Currently Amended) A method of receiving data from a data store, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a specified time from any point in time during a time interval that occurs prior to the creation of a snapshot of a first logical unit;

communicating to a storage device a request to create a virtual logical unit that reflects a state of the a first logical unit at the specified time, wherein backup data associated with the first logical unit have been accumulated by storing details associated with all write commands directed to the first logical unit during the time interval, and wherein each write command is stored when directed to the primary data store, and wherein the details associated with all write commands comprise an overwrite timestamp parameter, a primary data store location parameter, an original data store location parameter, and an overwritten data parameter;

creating the virtual logical unit from the backup data and the first logical unit;

communicating to the storage device a storage protocol request for data in the virtual logical unit; and

receiving a response comprising the requested data as the data appeared in the first logical unit at the specified time.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69 wherein the step of receiving a response further comprises receiving a substantially instantaneous response to the storage protocol request.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70 wherein the first logical unit comprises at least one terabyte of data.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70 wherein the response is received in less than 1 millisecond.

73. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture having computer-readable program portions contained therein for receiving data from a data store, the article comprising:

a computer-readable program portion for selecting a specified time from any point in time during a time interval that occurs prior to the creation of a snapshot of a first logical unit;

a computer-readable program portion for communicating to a storage device a request to create a virtual logical unit that reflects a state of the a first logical unit at the specified time, wherein backup data associated with the first logical unit have been accumulated by storing details associated with all

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write commands directed to the first logical unit during the time interval, ~~and~~ wherein each write command is stored when directed to the primary data store, and wherein the details associated with all write commands comprise an overwrite timestamp parameter, a primary data store location parameter, an original data store location parameter, and an overwritten data parameter;

a computer-readable program portion for creating the virtual logical unit from the backup data and the first logical unit;

a computer-readable program portion for communicating to the storage device a storage protocol request for data in the virtual logical unit; and

a computer-readable program portion for receiving a response comprising the requested data as the data appeared in the first logical unit at the specified time.